

The background of the cover is a soft, painterly illustration of a forest. On the left, a tall, green coniferous tree stands. In the lower-left foreground, a turkey with brown and orange feathers and a yellow beak is partially visible. In the center, a bright blue rabbit sits on a green grassy field. To the right, a young girl with dark hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt under blue overalls and brown shoes, is walking towards the right. She is carrying a brown wicker basket. In the background, behind the girl and to the left, a small brown bear is peeking over a grey rock. The overall style is whimsical and child-friendly.

# Awâsis

and the World-Famous

# Bannock

Dallas Hunt

Amanda Strong



The illustration is a watercolor-style scene. On the left, a tall, green, conical tree stands on a greyish mound. A small brown bear with a yellow nose is peeking over the edge of the mound. In the foreground, a blue rabbit with pink inner ears sits on a green grassy field. To the right, a child with dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt and blue overalls, is running towards the rabbit. The background is a plain white sky.

# Awâsis

and the World-Famous

# Bannock

Dallas Hunt

Amanda Stron

**THIS WHIMSICAL STORY** celebrates the revitalization of Cree dialects and traditional Indigenous methods of storytelling.

During an unfortunate mishap, young Awâsis loses Kôhkum's freshly baked, world-famous bannock. Not knowing what to do, Awâsis seeks out a variety of other-than-human relatives willing to help. What adventures are in store for Awâsis?

The book includes a pronunciation guide and the recipe for Kôhkum's world-famous bannock.













# Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock

Dallas Hunt

Amanda Strong

  
HIGHWATER  
PRESS



For nôhkom, Helen McRee

—D.H.

For Olivine Bouquet

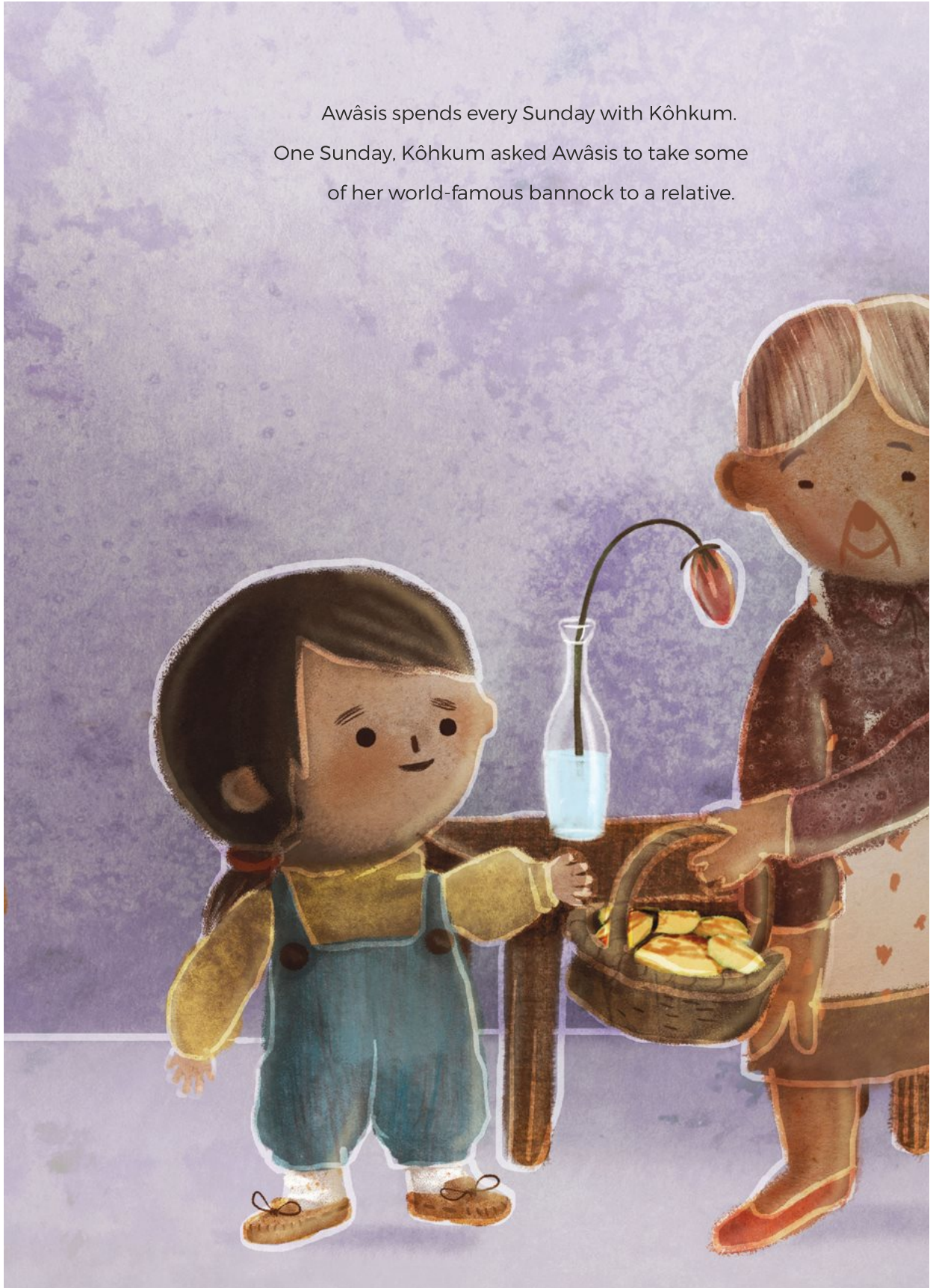
—A.S.







Awâsis spends every Sunday with Kôhkum.  
One Sunday, Kôhkum asked Awâsis to take some  
of her world-famous bannock to a relative.





Along the way, Awâsis jumped over rocks.

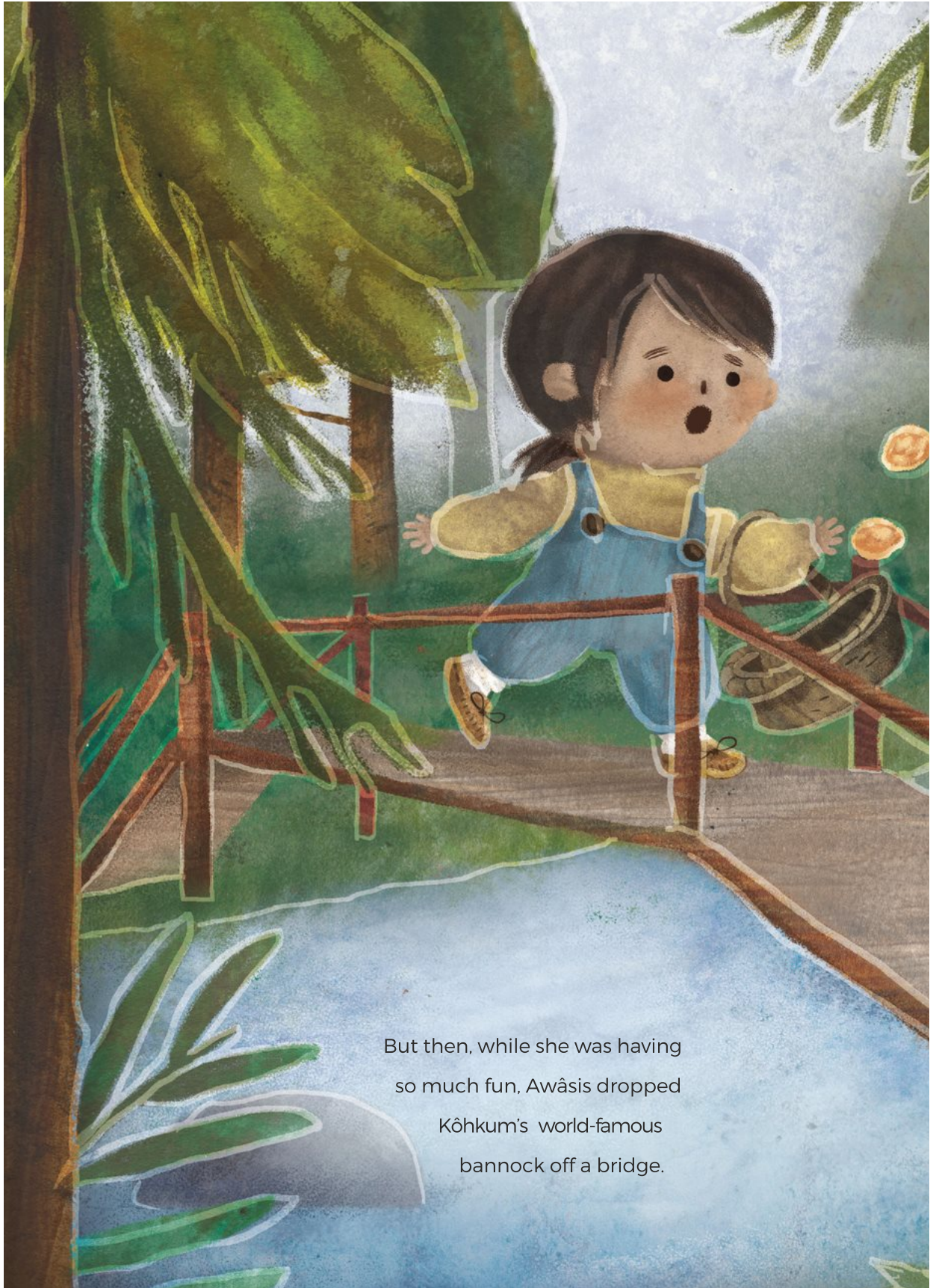




She ran through fields and skipped over bridges.







But then, while she was having  
so much fun, Awâsis dropped  
Kôhkum's world-famous  
bannock off a bridge.



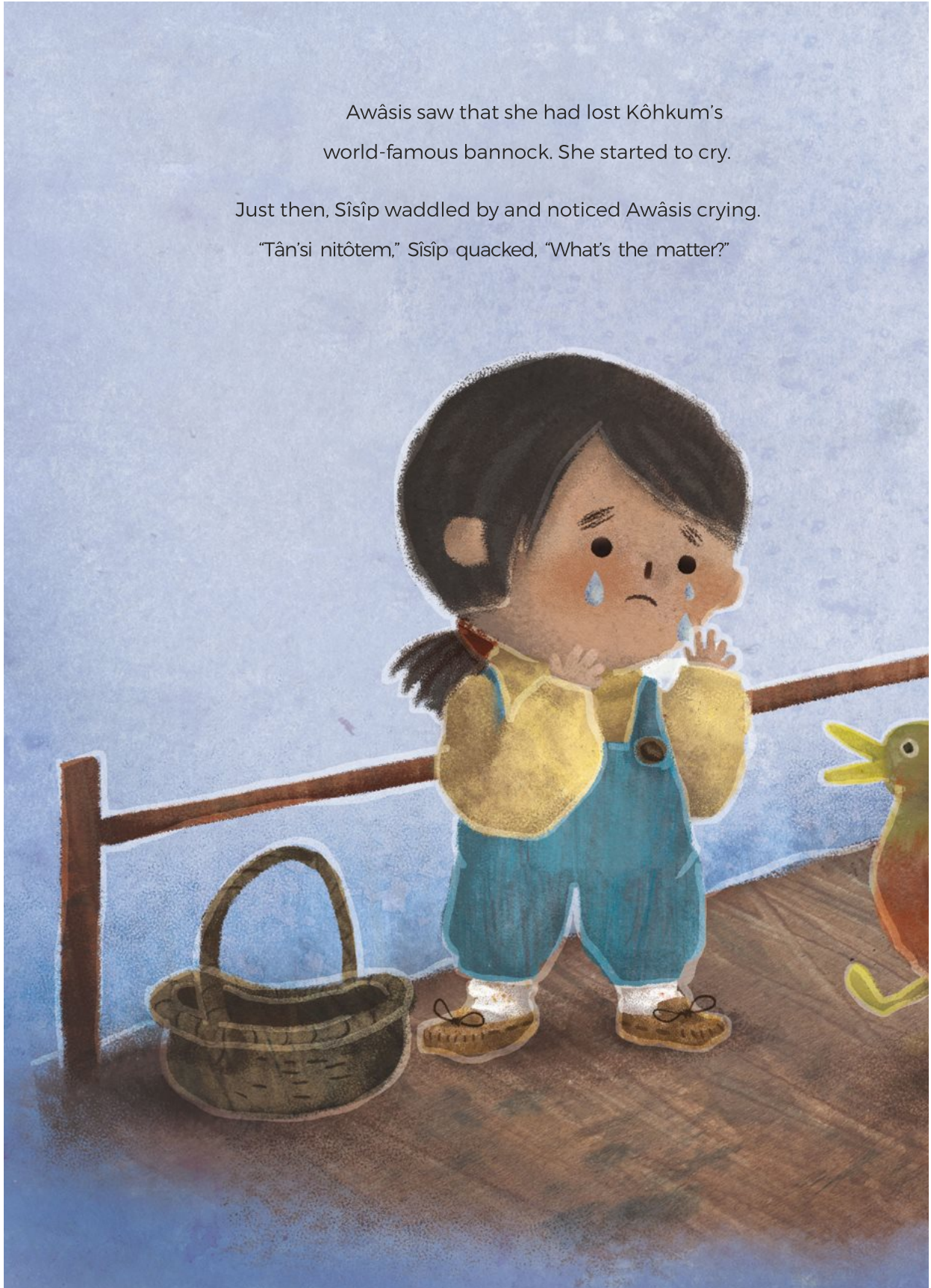




Awâsis saw that she had lost Kôhkum's  
world-famous bannock. She started to cry.

Just then, Sîsîp waddled by and noticed Awâsis crying.

"Tân'si nitôtem," Sîsîp quacked, "What's the matter?"





Awâsis replied, "I lost nôhkom's world-famous bannock. What do I do?"

"Don't worry," Sîsîp quacked. "I don't have any bannock, but I do have some tohtosapopimehkan, and I'm pretty sure that's in bannock!"

Awâsis smiled and gratefully accepted Sîsîp's offering.

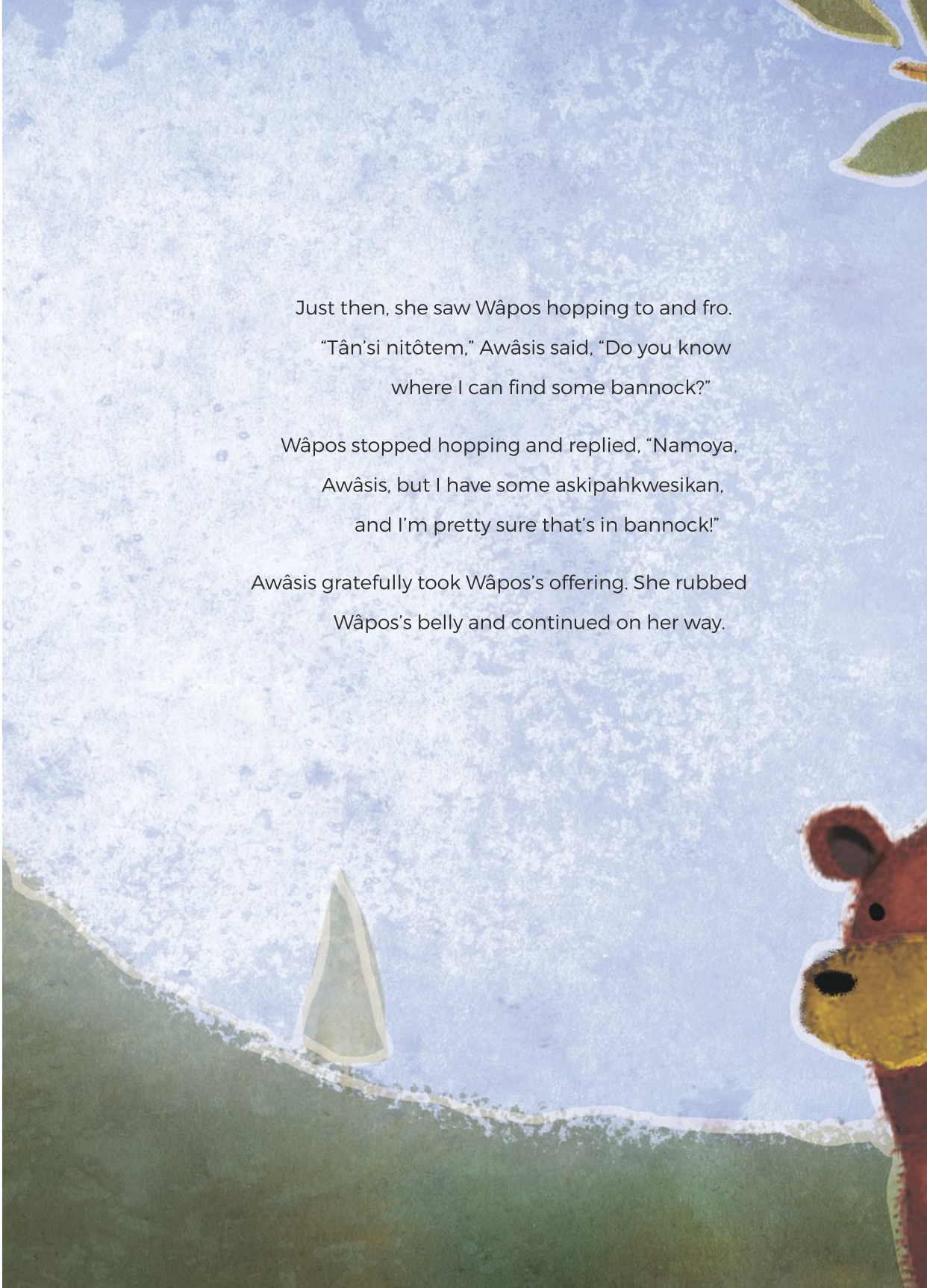
Awâsis continued on her way.











Just then, she saw Wâpos hopping to and fro.

"Tân'si nitôtem," Awâsis said, "Do you know  
where I can find some bannock?"

Wâpos stopped hopping and replied, "Namoya,  
Awâsis, but I have some askipahkwesikan,  
and I'm pretty sure that's in bannock!"

Awâsis gratefully took Wâpos's offering. She rubbed  
Wâpos's belly and continued on her way.







The illustration is a textured, painterly style. A large green frog with prominent red-rimmed eyes sits on a light-colored rock. It holds a small, round, light-colored bowl with a wooden lid, which contains several pieces of bannock. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a blue sky and green hills. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

At the stream, Awâsis saw Ayîkis jumping from stone to stone.

**“TÂN’SI NITÔTEM,”** Awâsis yelled, **“DO YOU KNOW  
WHERE I CAN FIND SOME BANNOCK?”**

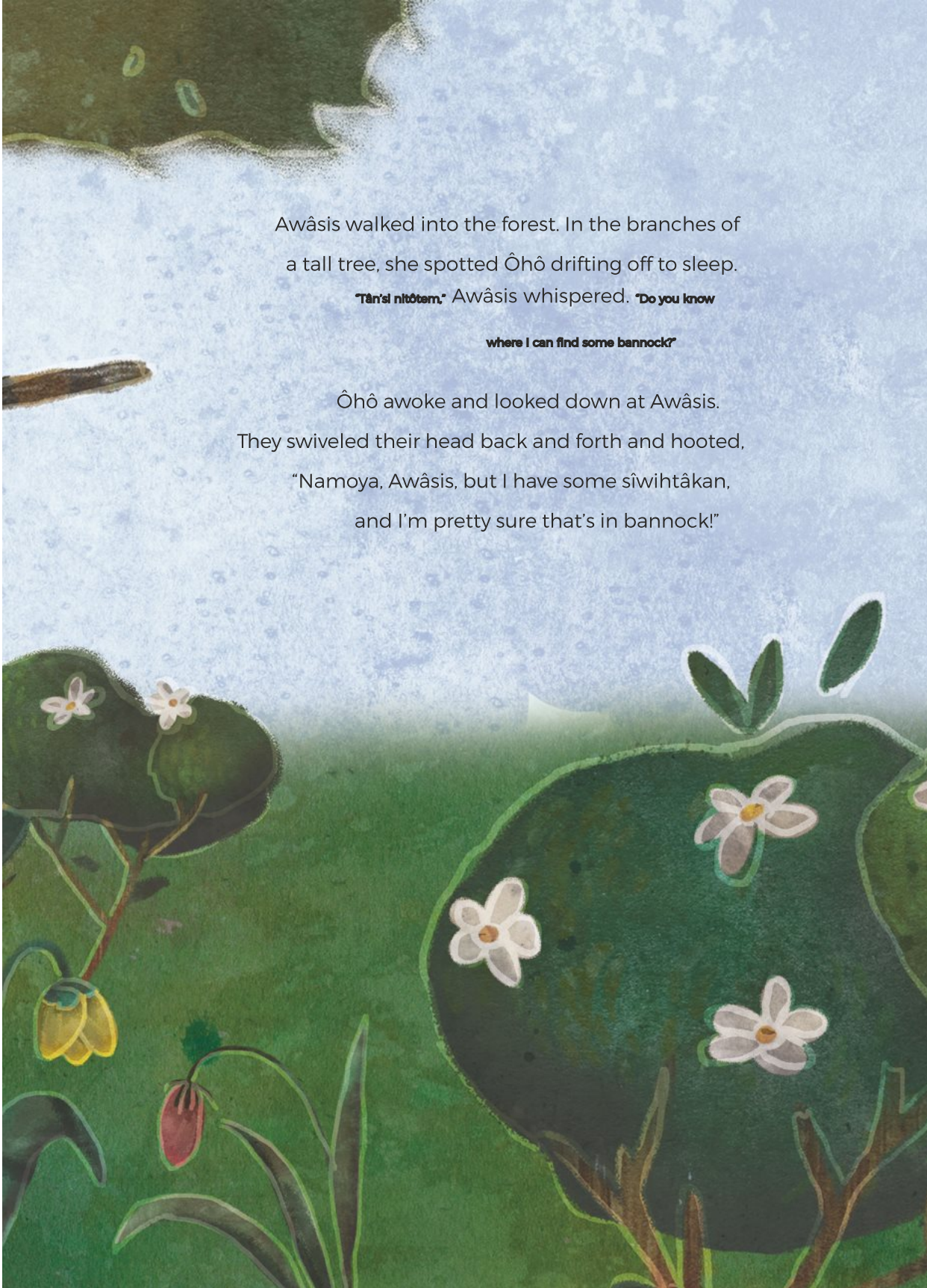
Ayîkis stopped her leaps and croaked, “Namoya. Awâsis, but I  
have some sîwinikan, and I’m pretty sure that’s in bannock!”

Awâsis gratefully accepted Ayîkis’s offering. Awâsis jumped  
over the tiny stream and continued on her way.









Awâsis walked into the forest. In the branches of  
a tall tree, she spotted Ôhô drifting off to sleep.

**"Tân'si nitôtam,"** Awâsis whispered. **"Do you know  
where I can find some bannock?"**

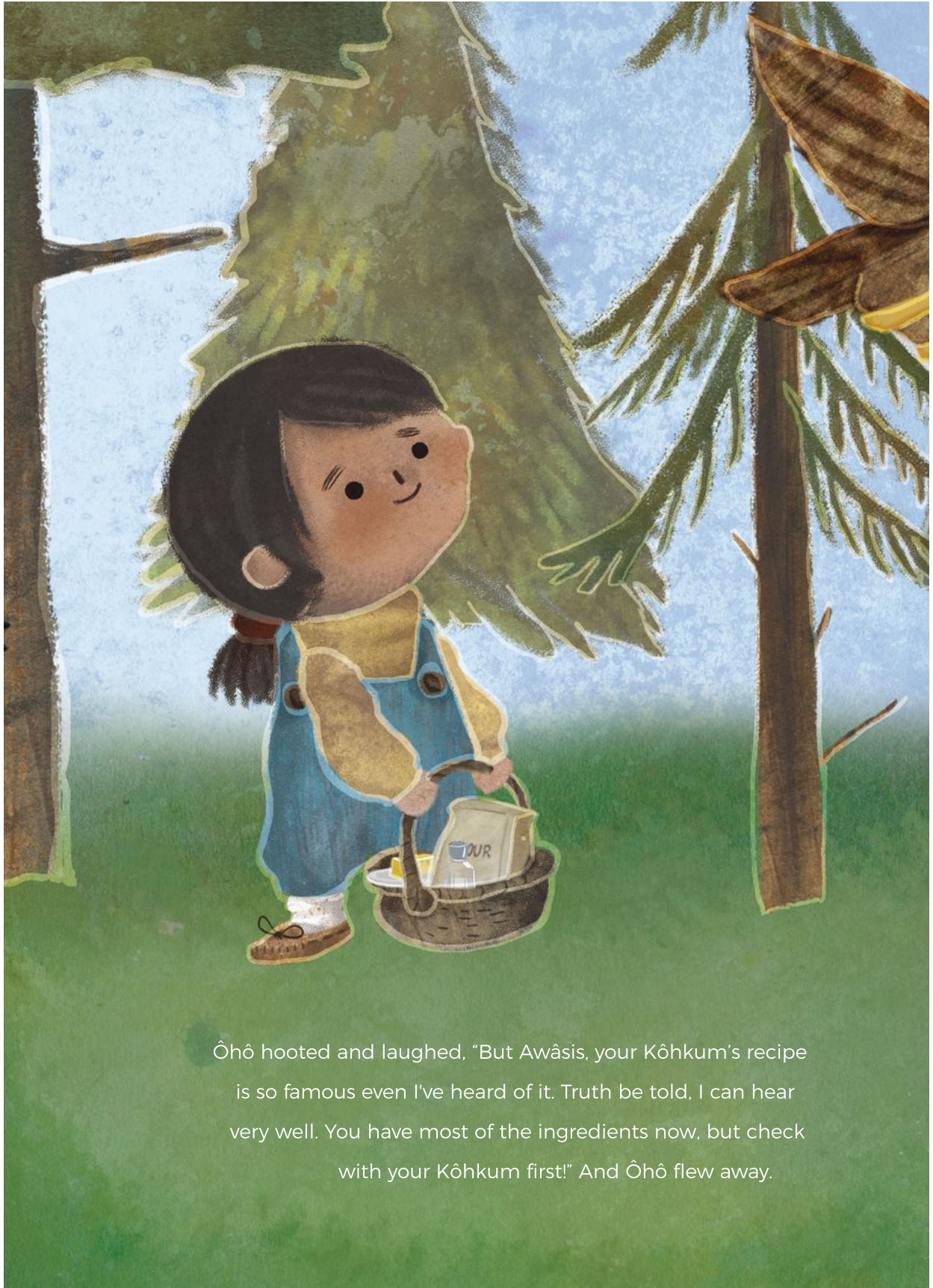
Ôhô awoke and looked down at Awâsis.  
They swiveled their head back and forth and hooted,  
"Namoya, Awâsis, but I have some sîwihtâkan,  
and I'm pretty sure that's in bannock!"



Awâsis gratefully received Ôhô's offering but frowned a bit. "What's wrong?" Ôhô asked. Awâsis replied, "I have all these ingredients, but no bannock! Nôhkom is going to be so disappointed."







Ôhô hooted and laughed, "But Awâsis, your Kôhkum's recipe is so famous even I've heard of it. Truth be told, I can hear very well. You have most of the ingredients now, but check with your Kôhkum first!" And Ôhô flew away.





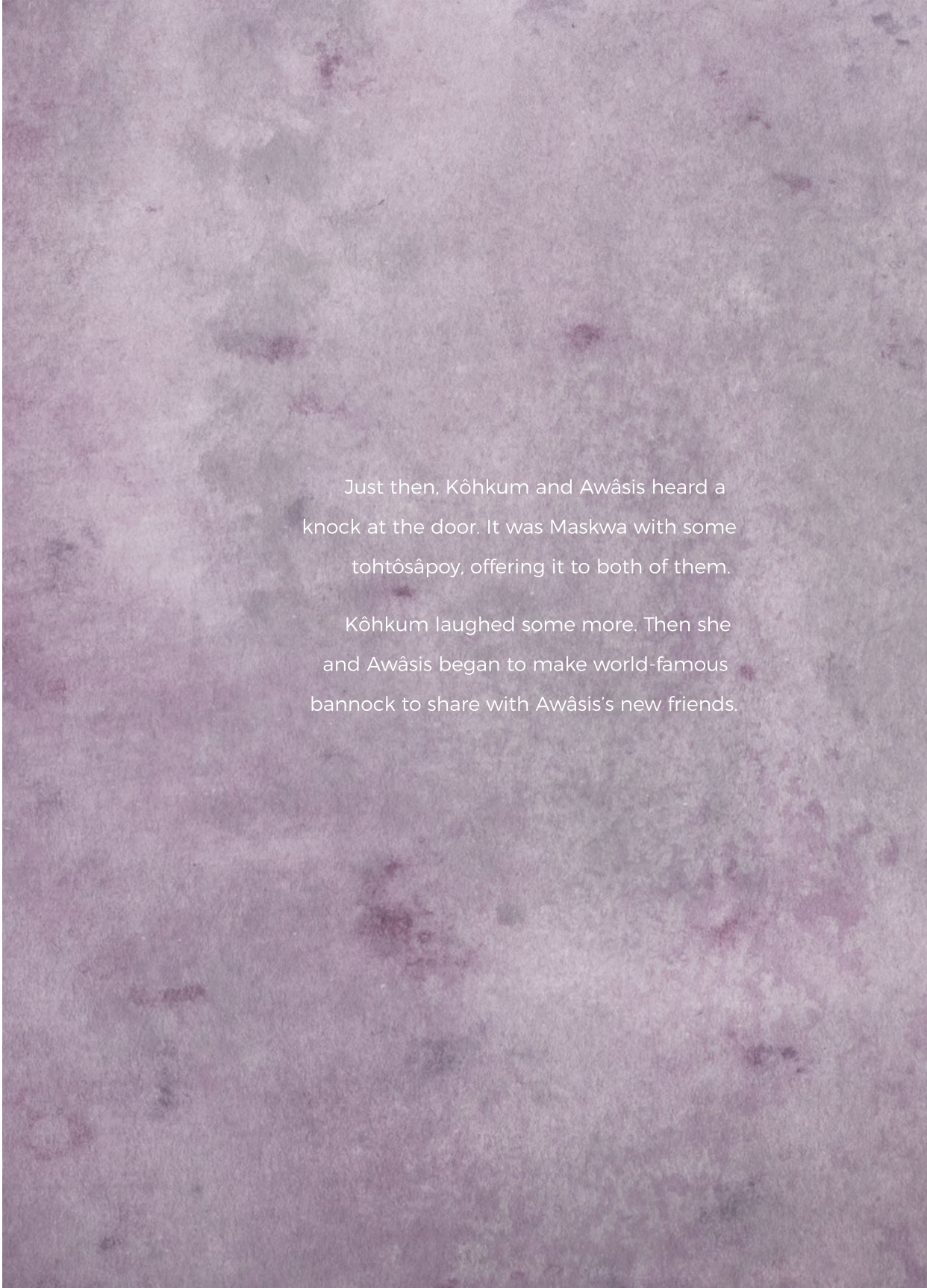
Awâsis raced straight home – no jumping on rocks or skipping over bridges. She stumbled through the door. “I’m sorry, Kôhkum! I dropped your world-famous bannock off a bridge. I asked many animal friends for help to find some more, but they gave me all these ingredients instead.”





Kôhkum laughed. "It's okay, nôsisim,  
we can make some more. Together!"

"But we still need some tohtôsâpoy."



Just then, Kôhkum and Awâsis heard a knock at the door. It was Maskwa with some tohtôsâpoy, offering it to both of them.

Kôhkum laughed some more. Then she and Awâsis began to make world-famous bannock to share with Awâsis's new friends.





# Kôhkum's World-Famous Bann

## Ingredients

1 cup tohtosapopimehkan (margarine)  
5-6 cups askipahkwesikan (flour)  
3 tablespoons opihkasikan (baking powder)

2 tablespoons sîwinikan (sugar)  
½ teaspoon sîwihtâkan (salt)  
3 cups tohtôsâpoy (milk)

## How to Bake

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (205°C).
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients. Mix with hands. Add more flour if dough is too sticky.
3. Roll or spread out dough on a flour-dusted counter. Make sure dough is approximately half an inch thick.
4. Make biscuit shapes with a cup.
5. Poke top of bannock with the back of a spoon.
6. Bake for 20 minutes or until the top begins to brown.
7. Now you have some palatka (bannock). *Be sure to share with your friends!*







Cree	English	Pro
awâsis	child	a-wa
kôhkum*	grandmother	cook
sîsîp	duck	see-s
tân'si	hello (how are you?)	tan-s
nitôtem	my friend	ni-to
nôhkom	my grandmother	nook
tohtosapopimehkan	margarine	toe-t
wâpos	rabbit	wah-
namoya	no	na-m
askipahkwesikan	flour	aski-
ayîkis	frog	a-yee
sîwinikan	sugar	see-v
ôhô	owl	oo-h
sîwihtâkan	salt	see-v
nôsisim	grandchild	no-si
tohtôsâpoy	milk	toe-t
maskwa	bear	mask
pahkwesikan	bannock	pahk

*\*Note: These are Cree words as I have come to know them, through speaking with family members, elders, teachers, and fellow language-learners, as well as through reading books and dictionaries on nêhiyawêwin (the Cree language). One of the characters, Kôhkum, is a variation of the word kôhkom, which when translated means "your grandmother." However, kôhkum and other variations like kookum are widely used colloquially among many Indigenous communities to refer to their grandmother(s), so I've used the informal way of saying grandmother throughout, except when I mean "my grandmother," in which case I've used "nôhkom." Most importantly, this book is about having fun with Cree language revitalization, so all Cree speakers and learners should feel comfortable with this book and with their language, using whatever version of kôhkum feels best or makes sense to them! hiy hiy!*

— D.H.

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Treaty 1 Territory and homeland of the Métis Nation







## About the author

Dallas Hunt is a teacher, writer, and member of Wapiseewsiipi (Swan River First Nation) in Treaty 8 territory in Northern Alberta, Canada. As a proponent of language revitalization, he wanted his debut book for children, *Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock*, to include words in Cree. Dallas lives in Winnipeg and enjoys reading great books to his nieces and nephews.

## About the illustrator

Amanda Strong is a Michif, Indigenous filmmaker, media artist, and stop motion director currently based out of the unceded Coast Salish territory also known as Vancouver, British Columbia. She has exhibited work and screened films worldwide, including at the Cannes Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, and the Ottawa International Animation Festival.



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